



Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang
With Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College

announce

The 2015-2016 Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort

November 2015-2016
Cloquet Forestry Center
Cloquet, Minnesota

Description. We are pleased to announce an opportunity that previous participants have called “the chance of a lifetime.” This November, the fifth annual Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort will be held at the Cloquet Forestry Center in Cloquet, Minnesota. The Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort will meet one weekend a month from November 2014 to April 2015 to participate in an Ojibwe immersion learning environment. Participants will stay at the Cloquet Forestry Center residence hall and meet in the center each day to speak and learn Ojibwe. Taught by master speakers and university faculty, the academy enrolls upper-level high school and college students, immersion teachers, language instructors at all levels, and other Ojibwe learners who seek to improve their proficiency and pass the language on to others. The goal of the academy is to ensure the longevity of the Ojibwe language by increasing the quality and quantity of proficient speakers in Minnesota and surrounding states.

Eligibility. *Language background.* We welcome anyone who is adequately prepared for language immersion. However, applicants should recognize that speaking Ojibwe for an entire weekend without using English is very difficult and can be disorienting. Individuals considering application should possess a minimum language background equivalent to two years of study of Ojibwemowin as shown by course credits, a language résumé, or two teacher or first speaker recommendations. They should have intermediate or advanced facility in hearing and speaking Ojibwe as demonstrated by a video-sound clip submitted with their application.

However, fluency is not a requirement, and all are encouraged to apply provided they are willing to follow academy guidelines with a positive attitude. Our more successful students are the ones that come with an open mind, positive attitude and determination to continue in immersion, even when it’s difficult.

Successful applications will make apparent the applicant’s past and present determination to learn Ojibwemowin and commitment to continue to advance his or her proficiency in the language following the academy. Even if an applicant meets the above expectations, he or she may not be able to participate because the number of spaces is limited. In addition, the admissions committee reserves the right to assemble a cohort of participants



who it deems will work well together and maximize advancement of the language. On occasion, this may include learners who might not have as much experience, but who offer exceptional long-term promise for learning and advancing the language.

Applicants may be asked for an additional Skype interview. Applicants should continue to check their email diligently after submitting their application, as they may be asked to sign-up for an interview time.

Age. Participants should be 16 years of age or older by the start of the academy. No one younger than 16 years can be accommodated at this time. Anyone under 18 years old will need a parent or guardian's permission to participate.

Residence. One of our goals is to build a community of speakers in a specific geographical area who can share the language in follow-up sessions after the academy and in years to come. Applicants should reside in or attend school in Minnesota, northwestern Wisconsin, eastern North Dakota, or the region of Ontario bordering Minnesota. If temporarily removed, they should have a relationship with an Ojibwe language community in this region.

Dissemination. Among the applicants who meet the above qualifications, priority will be given to applicants who plan to advance the language through teaching, performance, writing, community programs, family instruction, or by similar means of dissemination.

Exceptions. The above requirements are not meant to be exclusionary. We are trying to build a group of strong speakers who can carry the language into the future and pass it on to the next generation. Nonetheless, we know that each person has a different situation. If you do not meet one of the above requirements, but you feel that we should consider your application, please email us with a compelling explanation for why we should do so. If you make a good case, we will consider yours alongside other applications.

Expectations. *Before the Immersion Weekends:* All participants will be expected to complete homework assignments to prepare themselves for the intense immersion environment that they will be living in for three weeks. Assignments will be designed to help students prepare themselves for what they will learn at the Academy.

During the Immersion Weekends: Participants in the academy will commit themselves to speak Ojibwe and only Ojibwe for the duration of the monthly immersion weekends as they engage in large and small group learning with first speakers, receive grammatical instruction from university faculty, and engage in field trips using Ojibwe in a variety of situations and environments. This commitment includes giving up using cell phones, computers, iPods, and other English language conductors during programming. This is not meant to be restrictive; it is our intention is to create as close to a complete Ojibwe immersion environment as possible.



The weekends will begin 6:30pm on Fridays and run until the following Sunday afternoon at 3pm. We ask that all persons applying commit to attend every weekend to take full advantage of this unique language learning opportunity.

Costs. The Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort is funded by the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College with the support of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Thanks to this generous funding, there is no cost to participants.

Visitors. Advanced Ojibwe language students from the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and instructors from Fond du Lac language programs will join the Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort on Saturday afternoons. At this time we cannot accommodate family members or children of participants. All requests for a Saturday afternoon visit should be sent to ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com. Please wait for a reply from Ojibwemotaadidaa staff before planning to visit.

Applications. Application materials can be requested by email to ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com. The packet will contain instructions in Ojibwe for providing information about your language background, formal education, speaking proficiency, and future plans. Your application will include answering questions about your Ojibwe language learning experience and a short Ojibwe essay. The Ojibwe portion may be difficult, but consider it a learning experience. Use your Ojibwe notes, literature resources, or dictionaries. Get advice from a first speaker, friend, or teacher and send us an email if you need further assistance.

In addition, applications should include a short video clip with quality sound of the applicant speaking the language informally in a natural, conversational style. The video-sound clip can include another person as long as the applicant clearly demonstrates her or his facility with the language. **We suggest you submit your application and video well before the deadline**, to avoid technical difficulties preventing your application from being complete.

All applications must be submitted by email to ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com. Please submit an organized application. The written portion should be typed and submitted as an email attachment along with your video clip.

We will not accept late applications, including missing portions or videos.

We may also contact you for a Skype interview. After reviewing your application, we will inform you of available dates to choose from for your interview. Please continue to check your email to ensure you do not miss the deadline to sign up for an interview.

Deadline. All applications must be submitted by email to ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com **before noon on Tuesday, September 15, 2015**. No applications can be accepted after that date. Application review involves multiple reviewers, so that an optimal group can



be selected. We will notify you of your acceptance, non-acceptance, or assignment to the wait list by **Wednesday, October 14, 2015**. Acceptance decisions will be made by the review committee comprised of faculty, program staff and community members.

Summary of Biboon 2015-2016 Application Schedule

July	Announcement and application packets available.
September 15	Applications due by noon. No late applications.
October 14	First-round invitations sent and wait-list announced.
October 21	First-round acceptances confirmed. Wait-list invited, if applicable.
October 28	All participants confirmed.
November-April	2015-2016 Ojibwe Immersion Academy

Ojibwe Immersion Weekend Cohort Dates

Nov 20-22
Dec 11-12
Jan 15-17
Feb 26-28
March 11-13
April 8-10
Tentative: Transcription Workshop April 22-24

To Request an Application Packet

To obtain an application packet please email your request to ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com with “application request” in the subject line. All applications are due **before noon on Tuesday, September 15, 2015**.